

Avery, C. Louise, Miss
[Asst. Curator, Metropolitan
Museum of Art]

1931

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART
NEW YORK

CABLE ADDRESS
METMUSART

DEPARTMENT OF DECORATIVE ARTS

February 4, 1931.

Dear Mr. Wood,

At various times in the last three or four years pieces of what I believe to be South American silver have come to my notice. Unfortunately I have been unable to find books recording the hallmarks found on such silver, and as I think there may have been some connection between the devices of these marks and those found on the coins, I am appealing to you for information.

On most of the pieces which bear any marks at all there appears a Spanish crown. Several pieces have had a square mark with what appears to be two mountain peaks and ^{a houseman?} an animal rampant standing on one of them. Another piece of silver shows a mound with a castle on top, and at the right a lion rampant. Still other silver shows a mark which appears to be the pillars of Hercules. I wonder whether these designs may not signify the provinces in which the silver was made? Are you familiar with them?

I shall be very grateful for any information you may give or for suggestions as to books which might help me.

Very truly yours,

Clouise Avery
Assistant Curator

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
Broadway & 156 Street,
New York City.

Feb. 5, 1931

Miss C. Louise Avery
Asst. Curator, The Metropolitan Museum of Art
New York City

Dear Miss Avery:

I am not familiar with any of the marks found on old silver, that you have drawn, nor can I trace through these marks any significance to the various Mexican provinces. It must be possible to trace these marks through Mexican sources, but on this score I am not able to help you.

I would suggest that you write to J. S. Garza, Apartado III, Mexico D.F., and to Dr. Everardo Landa, 8a del Natanjo, 216, Mexico City, D.F. Both of these men, if they cannot tell you directly, ought to be able to put you in touch with the proper sources or persons.

Trusting that this information will prove to be of help to you,

Very sincerely yours,

Curator.